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Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 02353 300359 Z

14
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12

OMB-01 INRE-00 AID-20 RSR-01 /114 W
---------- 060311
P R 300330 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3319
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2353

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LA
SUBJECT: SOUVANNA' S VIEWS ON NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 057783

1. " WE WILL HAVE A NEW COALITION GOVT BY THE NEW YEAR" WAS ETERNALLY OPTIMISTIC SOUVANNA PHOUMA' S REPLY WHEN WE ASKED HIM EVENING MARCH 29 ABOUT HIS TALKS WITH PHOU SIPRASEUTH. (LAO NEW YEAR BEGINS APRIL 13.) SOUVANNA HAD MET WITH PHOUN THAT SAME MORNING BUT HE ADDED THAT FURTHER MEETINGS WITH PHOUN ARE NEEDED TO RESOLVE KEY MATTERS RELATED TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIOS. SOUVANNA IS MEETING AGAIN WITH PHOUN THIS MORNING AND SOUVANNA SAID THAT BY THIS WEEKEND HE WOULD KNOW WHETHER HIS OPTIMISM ON THE EARLY FORMATION OF A NEW GOVT IS WELL FOUNDED.

2. SOUVANNA NOTED TWO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN HIS MARCH 29 TALK WITH PHOUN: (A) PHOUN HAS BEEN GIVEN IN WRITING FULL POWER BY SOUPHANOUVONG TO NEGOTIATE THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVT WITH THE RLG; (B) THE TONE OF SOUPHANOUVONG' S LETTER TO SOUVANNA WHICH PHOUN HAND- CARRIED FROM SAM NEUA IS MUCH MORE
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FRIENDLY THAN PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PRINCES. SOUVANNA TOLD US THAT HIS BROTHER' S LETTER CLOSES WITH " FRATERNAL" SALUTATIONS. SOUVANNA WAS VISIBLY PLEASED BY THE WARMER TONE.

3. SOUVANNA SAID THAT AFTER HIS MEETING WITH PHOUN THIS MORNING, HE WILL CALL IN PHENG PHONGSAVAN TO BRIEF HIM ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. WE HOPE TO SEE PHENG LATER THIS AFTERNOON TO LEARN WHETHER ANYTHING FURTHER HAS RESULTED FROM PHOUN' S RETURN TO VIENTIANE. GODLEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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